



## **Congregazione dei Missionari di Mariannahill**

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### **Obituary of Fr George Mukua Kageche CMM (1979-2019)**

Fr George Kageche Mukua was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1979 in Kiambu District, Kenya. His parents were John Kageche Mukua and Susan Wambui Kageche. In a family of four siblings, (Wanjiku, George, Wambui and Mbugua) two brothers and two sisters, Fr George was the second born. They lived in the village of Kagwe. The father was a medium scale contractor. Through hard work in their small plot and tea plantation Fr George learnt at an early age the value of working hard and the dignity in self-reliance.

He made his first vows in the Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2004 in Mariannahill, South Africa. In the same year he started his Philosophical studies. In 2006 he obtained a BA in Philosophy and then proceeded with Theology at the same institute. He made his perpetual profession on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2008.

In 2009 his brother Mbugua, who was the last born died. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2010 his father passed on and barely three months later, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August his mother passed on. This was a time of pain and sorrow for Fr George, losing his brother in one year and both parents the following year with only a few months in between.

When his parents died, he was doing his final year of his theological studies. The loss of his parents weighed heavily on him and his heart took a lot of pain. With encouragement and accompaniment from his professors and formators he successfully completed his studies in the same year. Death inopportunely visited his family especially in his process of formation.

After completing his studies in 2010 he was assigned to do pastoral work in St Francis Xavier Parish, Maclear in the Diocese of Mthatha. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 he was ordained Deacon in Mthatha by Bishop Sithembele Sipuka. As a deacon he was assigned to work in the Catholic Development Centre office in the Diocese of Mthatha. To better equip himself for his work, he enrolled with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and obtained a Master's degree in Social Development.

This assignment brought him closer to people in their social struggles as he dealt with issues of development and social transformation and uplifting the lives of the marginalised. His work entailed analysing social issues of the community, understanding their developmental needs and with the community set up viable projects to better their lives. They sourced funding for such projects, supervised and monitored their implementation. He was down to earth in his approach, diligent in his work and people appreciated his services. He understood the correlation between spiritual growth and social development.

In 2014 he was sent to Nairobi, Kenya where he was to do pastoral work and prepare for his ordination to priesthood. He was assigned to Juja Farm Parish where with the CMM community there he was zealous in his work, dedicating most of his time to deepening the faith in the small Christian Communities. He also assisted in accompanying young people in the formation house in Juja Farm for a while.

In August 2016 he was assigned to his home parish in Kagwe, Kiambu District. There he was loved by his own people as he showed commitment and selfless in his ministry.

In November 2016 just as he began the practical preparations for his ordination, his step brother died in a tragic car accident. Once again death visited him unpropitiously inflicting tremendous pain since they were very close and supportive to one another.

He was ordained priest by Bishop David Kamau in Nairobi, Kenya on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. In February 2018 he was transferred to Rome where he was appointed as Director of the Solidarity Office in the General Leadership of our Congregation, an office he held until his untimely death. In this office he worked with our different Units in all the countries we are present, coordinating the various projects and seeking funding for them. This helps our members to fulfil their missionary outreach and contribution to the society. In this way Fr George contributed his talents and love for humanity to many people through the service of our members.

On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 in the evening our Generalate community in Rome gathered at the main entrance to bid farewell and bless our brothers who were travelling, as is our custom. On this evening Fr George Kageche Mukua was travelling with Fr Jean Bosco Ntawugashira, going to attend a tertianship, renewal programme for our members in Nairobi, Kenya. Fr Jean Bosco was going to go to his home in Rwanda first and then from there proceed to Nairobi. Due to this, our two brothers parted ways in Addis Ababa, Fr George boarding the flight to Nairobi and Fr Jean Bosco to Kigali. Fr Jean Bosco reached Kigali safely. In the fatal plane accident Fr George did not reach Nairobi.

His untimely death at the age of 40 leaves a gap in his biological family as he is survived by two sisters. He also leaves a big gap in his religious family, the

Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill. He will always be fondly remembered as he was truly a caring and loving person. His statement in one of his last sermons was, "Do not waste time by missing opportunities to love others. Life is precious and we must take every opportunity to love and care for one another."

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**Rome, 13 March 2019.**

**Congregation of Missionaries of Mariannahill.**

